

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 5-12 are presently active; Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 12 are presently amended; Claims 2 and 4 have been presently canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsutsui Naoki (JP 2001-1102004), Claims 3 and 5-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form,

Firstly, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3 and 5-11. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, Claim 3 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

Secondly, the subject matter of Claims 2 and 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1 with further clarifications for the examiner's reconsideration. Claim 1 presently defines:

An image sensor unit having an electric discharge light emitting lamp for producing an illumination beam, the lamp comprising a first electrode and a second electrode facing each other and defining a discharge space therebetween along the longitudinal axis of the lamp, wherein:

a first light emitting layer and a second light emitting layer are provided in the discharge space so as to face each other and to cover the first and second electrodes, respectively;

a dielectric material is inserted between the first electrode and the first light emitting layer, and inserted between the second electrode and the second light emitting layer; and

at least one of the first and second light emitting layers is arranged so as to define an uncovered region, in which at least one of the dielectric material, the first electrode, and the second electrode include a photoemission material and is exposed to the discharge space, the uncovered region including the photoemission material extending from one end to the other end of the lamp continuously or discontinuously over the range along the longitudinal axis of the lamp.

By way of a non-limiting example, Applicants' Figure 3 shows uncovered regions of light emitting layers 20 and 20' by the absence of any intervening material on the discharge-

side of light emitting layers 20 and 20'. Applicants' Figure 5 shows a top view of uncovered regions D1(D) and D2(D) of which the specification on pages 14-15 describes the extent of the uncovered regions and the mixing of a photoemission material into the exposed portions to promote sufficient quantity of light in the uncovered regions.

In Tsutsui Naoki, the electron radiation material layer 9 in Tsutsui Naoki (assumed for the sake of argument to be an element of Tsutsui Naoki which the examiner might construe as a photoemission material) is arranged only at an end of discharge tube 1 in an area in which fluorescent layer 3 is removed (or not formed). Accordingly, the electron radiation material layer 9 does not extend continuously or discontinuously toward the other end of the discharge tube 1.

Hence, Applicants submit that the features of an uncovered region including a photoemission material extending from one end to the other end of the lamp continuously or discontinuously over the range along the longitudinal axis of the lamp is a feature not shown in Tsutsui Naoki.

Since M.P.E.P. § 2131 requires for anticipation that each and every feature of the claimed invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim, Tsutsui Naoki does not anticipate amended Claim 1.


Thus, Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to patentably define over Tsutsui Naoki.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application submitted herewith is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Ronald A. Rudder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,618

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